

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

RSR-01 /076 W

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R 291725Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 379

INFO DOD WASHDC

USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5623

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MILI, VE, CU

SUBJECT: AF CAPTAIN FLIES BOMBER TO CUBA, SEEKS ASYLUM

1. AT NOON JUNE 27 A VENEZUELAN CANBERRA BOMBER BASED AT VALLE GARCIA AIR BASE AT BARCELONA TOOK OFF WITH OTHER BOMBERS TO PARTICIPATE IN FORMATION FLYING PRACTICE FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE FLYOVER. PILOT, CAPTAIN ARISTIDES GONZALES, DECLARED AN EMERGENCY AND DID NOT RETURN TO BASE. JUNE 28 GOV LEARNED AND PRESS SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED THAT GONZALES HAD LANDED AIRCRAFT AT CAMAGUEY, CUBA, AND ASKED FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM.

2. STATEMENT BY VENEZUELAN AIR FORCE CONFIRMED ABOVE INFO AND ADDED THAT TECH SGT. CARLOS ROSENDO MADERA ECHARRE, OTHER CREWMAN, HAD NOT ASKED FOR ASYLUM, THAT GONZALEZ HAD BEEN DISCIPLINED RECENTLY FOR NOT FOLLOWING ORDERS AND ENDANGERING AN AIRCRAFT, THAT HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY BEEN INSUBORDINATE, AND THAT GOV HAS BEGUN PROCEDURES TO HAVE AIRCRAFT RETURNED.

3. GONZALES WAS AIDE TO THEN-AIR FORCE CHIEF OF STAFF NOW AIR FORCE COMMANDING GENERAL ORDONEZ. PRESS SPECULATES HE
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ACTED BECAUSE HE WAS PASSED OVER FOR PROMOTION, BUT EMBASSY

UNDERSTANDS HE WAS UP FOR PROMOTION IN LATEST LIST. INCIDENT
EMBARRASSING FOR VENEZUELA AND CUBA WHICH, BY ALL INDICATIONS,
ARE PLANNING TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PRIOR TO
ELECTIONS HERE.
MCCLINTOCK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: PINS, MILI, VE, CU
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